



AETC News Clips

Air Force Times



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January 23, 2006

Report: Computers sold before data erased

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Pentagon inspectors say officials at four Air Force bases often approved selling surplus computers and guidance equipment without removing all classified data or components.

The equipment included guidance and control systems for missiles, infrared or laser tracking systems, safety and arming devices and more.

Some items were caught by inspectors before sales occurred but others were sold, according to Air Force Audit Agency reports obtained by the Deseret Morning News through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, said it researched the items it released as surplus and concluded they “do not present a danger to the public. The assets contained no classified, sensitive or controlled information,” the News reported in a copyright story Monday.

However, inspectors said such risky release easily could have happened because of scores of errors were found in spot checks at Ogden and the Air Force’s other two logistics centers — Warner Robins in Georgia and Oklahoma City — and at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Those four bases manage thousands of weapons, aircraft parts and other types of equipment. They decide how much demilitarization of items is needed before their sale as surplus.

Random sampling by inspectors found that officials at Ogden had the wrong codes for demilitarization for 52 percent of items reviewed, Lackland had miscoded 50 percent, Warner Robins miscoded 42 percent and Oklahoma City had miscoded 33 percent.

It said that in Ogden’s records, a flight simulator trainer “valued at \$52 million was coded as ‘no demilitarization necessary’ when it should have been coded as a Security Classified Item, requiring demilitarization before physical transfer to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office.”

Some other items that inspectors said were miscoded by officials at Ogden included a warhead subassembly for a guided missile, a safety and arming device, a guidance and control system and an infrared seeker sensor.

Equipment specialists are supposed to double check just before items are released as surplus whether coding is correct and planned sanitization is adequate, but at Ogden, equipment specialists did not properly review the demilitarization codes, the report said.

Inspectors blamed most of the problems on lack of training for equipment specialists. At Ogden, 38 percent of such specialists interviewed had not attended demilitarization courses. Also, 56 percent who had received initial training and were eligible for a refresher course had not received it.

The inspectors called for more money for training, which numerous levels of command endorsed and said they would build it into budgets.



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The Ogden ALS said, “We have followed the auditors’ recommendations by assigning (demilitarization) codes, updating training course materials and adding more training classes. We conscientiously continue to aggressively conform to applicable governmental regulations.”



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Civil engineer squadron lending hand

Mission will build maternity clinic in El Salvador

By David Madrid
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Members of the 944th Civil Engineer Squadron will go to El Salvador in March on a humanitarian mission.

The 944th, which is based at Luke Air Force Base, will take part in New Horizons, an annual humanitarian exercise put on by the U.S. Army South Command.

The New Horizons project provides medical assistance to needy people in the Caribbean and Latin America, as well as building schools, community centers, medical clinics and other such things.

This year, the exercise will help the Dominican Republic and El Salvador.

"We're going to be headed for El Salvador with a complement of individuals," said Maj. Hayley Wihongi, an operations and deployment officer with the 944th. "There will be doctors and nurses providing medical services to the folks in those countries, and our Civil Engineer Squadron will be building a maternity clinic in the community of San Francisco Gotera."

About 50 members of the 944th and six members of the Arizona Air National Guard 161st Civil Engineer Squadron will travel to El Salvador. Wihongi said the exercise will give the reservists and guards real-world construction experience as well as experience in delivering humanitarian aid.



Members of the 944th Civil Engineer Squadron have gone into the community to gather donations that they will take on a humanitarian mission to El Salvador.

"A lot of women in that part of El Salvador don't have any type of prenatal care before they go in to deliver children, and this clinic will provide that,"

she said. "Two weeks before their expected due date, they can go to the clinic and get whatever prenatal care they want prior to the delivery of their baby."

The 944th will supply reservists to serve four rotations in El Salvador, beginning in March and ending in May.

"A lot of women in that part of El Salvador don't have any type of prenatal care before they go in to deliver children, and this clinic will provide that."

Maj. Hayley Wihongi

The reservists hit the streets in search of donations.

"A lot of our reservists live out there in our communities and we serve at Luke," Wihongi said. "We've gone into our communities and we've shared with them the opportunity to convince their neighbors and friends to donate to the maternity-clinic project."

"I've had people in my community, Queen Creek, give donations for newborn kits."

The kits contain diapers, booties, receiving blankets and other things a newborn needs.

Cub Scout Pack 861 of Queen Creek, made up of 8- to 11-year-olds, collected enough items to put together more than 100 newborn boxes.

The reservists and their helpers also collected such things as school items, coloring books, crayons, pencils and reading glasses, which are very expensive in El Salvador, Wihongi said.

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Luke looks to the sun for power

By David Madrid

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Luke Air Force Base is looking to the future, and the future holds cheaper energy costs that could lead to a savings of as much as \$21.8 million in energy and operational costs over the next 20 years.

Those savings will be the result of a \$9.6 million energy-savings performance contract between the base and Morris Township, N.J.-based Honeywell that will improve energy infrastructure and implement energy-saving measures and long-term preventative maintenance services.

All the improvements will be paid for with guaranteed savings.

The Luke upgrades are expected to help the base cut electricity use by 12.4 million kilowatt-hours per year, which is almost 14 percent of the amount consumed in fiscal year 2005.

Among the upgrades, Honeywell will replace the aging and leaking roof on the Base Exchange building with a 144,000-square-foot photovoltaic solar roof system.

Los Angeles-based Solar Integrated Technologies will install the roof. Solar

Integrated Technologies is a company that designs and manufactures building-integrated photovoltaic systems for commercial roofing and portable solar applications worldwide. The company manufactures photovoltaic systems made of lightweight, industrial fabrics fused with flexible high-efficiency solar cells that harness the sun for renewable energy.

The photovoltaic system will initially produce more than 120 kilowatts of power, which is enough to power more than 35 homes per year. The system is supposed to provide decades of free, zero-emissions energy for the base. The local utility will provide a \$488,000 rebate to help pay for the system.

Among the other energy-saving strategies is a new automated technology to maintain the base's air-conditioning units, installation of energy-efficient lighting, an energy-management control system, automated controls to allow temperatures to rise when buildings are not in use and low-flow sinks, toilets and fixtures to reduce water consumption by millions of gallons a year.

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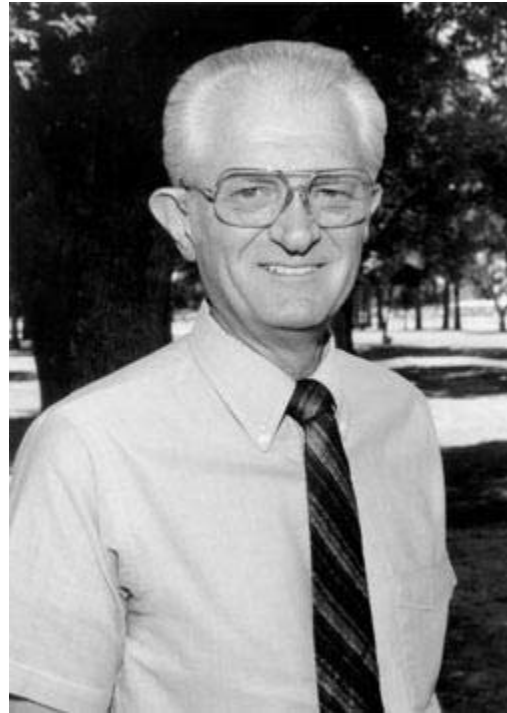
Rep. Nelson introduces 10 bills at Legislature

By Carolyn Dryer

Rep. John Nelson (R-Dist. 12) has introduced 10 bills in the state House of Representatives since the Jan. 9 opening session of the Legislature.

In December, Nelson said he would be working on several military bills to increase benefit packages for veterans and the National Guard. Of the 10 bills he introduced last week, Nelson, along with other West Valley legislators, introduced seven that deal specifically with issues that would benefit veterans.

One of the bills, H2055, would grant a tuition waiver to community college or university to any resident of the state who is eligible for GI benefits and who received a Purple Heart citation after Sept. 11, 2001. This is a companion piece to H2058, which grants a tuition waiver to community college or university to a spouse of a current or former member of the Arizona National Guard.



Rep. John Nelson R-Dist. 12

"In some sense, it's not significant because we don't have a lot of veterans that would fall in this package," Nelson said in December. "It allows those that have received Purple Hearts and can't go to school to pass the education funding on to their spouse. The family has a better chance if the spouse can use education benefits and improve their lot in life."

Nelson said he is also working on getting more funding for the state's Department of Veterans Services.

This particular legislation would also involve a fiduciary arm that manages funds for veterans that can't mentally and physically manage their estates.

Nelson also offered legislation that would affect veterans' burial benefits.

"This is for somebody whose put their lives on the line, make sure those people are not left by the wayside and buried in some potter's field," he said.

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That bill was introduced as H2061. It requires notification of the Veterans Administration and local veterans' associations of the death, to give those organizations the opportunity to provide for the burial. If no other person or organization is found that is willing to make final arrangements, the county "shall ensure burial is in a veterans cemetery."

The National Guard is not left out of the benefits picture. Nelson said some of the veterans' benefits would apply to those who served on active duty and in combat zones.

"I imagine there will be other veterans' bills that will deal with these kinds of issues," he said.

Nelson is also working on a payday loan bill, which has been talked about by **Luke Air Force Base** Wing Command Brig. Gen. Robin Rand. Nelson has been in touch with the payday loan industry and the base trying to put a package together.

"Payday loans came about because of the military," Nelson said. "The industry itself came about because of the needs of the military when they were on a once-a-month pay plan. But I think, to be realistic, now where it's going, it's going beyond what some people would call reasonable."

Nelson's bill would still allow the industry to exist but it would make sure the military are protected in the process, "so they don't get so much in debt, they wind up being discharged from the service because of it. They can be drummed out of the service for it."

Nelson said the military has programs "to help these kids if they're willing to come in and ask. Once they get into the other problem, we need to have ways legislatively or through a process of notification so the base can come in and help before it gets out of hand."

Other military bills introduced by Nelson, Sen. Jim Waring (R-Dist. 7, Phoenix), or Sen. Jack Harper (R-Dist. 4, Surprise) are:

H2060: Military Airport Disclosure; Residences. Beginning Jan. 1, 2007, a seller of residential property must disclose to a buyer whether the property is located in the vicinity of a military airport or ancillary military facility

S1023: Vehicle License Tax; Disable Veterans. UP to three vehicles (previously, one) owned by a qualifying disabled veteran are exempt from vehicle license tax.

S1025: Vehicle License Tax; Military Exemption. A member of the National Guard or military reserve may be exempt from payment of auto registration and vehicle license taxes.

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S1026: Land Valuation Fund. This is a fund that would be under the control of the Military Affairs Commission to provide money to parties that sell land near a military airport if the increase in fair market value of the property from the time the party purchased it to the time of sale is less than the increase in assessed value as set by the county assessor between the time the party purchased the land to the time of sale. Restrictions and criminal statutes would be amended to ensure that violations are treated in much the same way as racketeering.

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